

in acts of tenderness and sacrifice, is unfathomable. Always faithful to her children, always willing to offer them reassurance and forgiveness, a mother provides a glimpse of the Divine Love that gives every human life dignity and meaning. This may well be our mothers' greatest gift to us.

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the beginning of our Nation's involvement in World War II, an American minister noted that Mother's Day held special significance for a nation embroiled in bitter conflict. He wrote: "We are so grateful that on this beautiful day it is possible for the heart and soul of America to unite itself, irrespective of creed or color, of faith or race, into one great effort to bring this ideal of love before our hearts and minds again." At a time when the power of hatred seemed overwhelming, the unfailing strength of maternal love gave reason to believe that goodness would prevail.

Today we no longer face the cruel test of world war, but we still do well to reflect upon the example provided by our mothers. Their courage, faithfulness, and generosity must never fail to strengthen and inspire us.

In grateful recognition of the contributions of all mothers to their families and to the Nation, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved May 8, 1914 (38 Stat. 770), has designated the second Sunday in May each year as "Mother's Day" and requested the President to call for its appropriate observance.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that Sunday, May 13, 1990, be observed as Mother's Day. I urge all Americans to express their love and respect for their mothers and to reflect upon the importance of motherhood to the well-being of our country. I direct Federal officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal buildings, and I urge all citizens to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6134 of May 12, 1990

National Day in Support of Freedom and Human Rights

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

From mid-April to early June of last year, millions of citizens of the People's Republic of China participated in massive demonstrations in scores of Chinese cities in a remarkable display of peaceful political activity. The goals they espoused—greater freedoms, more respect for human rights, more meaningful opportunities for participation in political processes—are goals cherished by all Americans.

Tragically, on the night of June 3-4, lethal force was used to crush the demonstrations. This action, far beyond the legitimate requirements of law and order, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of unarmed citizens. In the months that followed, many thousands more were detained and otherwise punished for their peaceful expression of political views. Harsh penalties were imposed for activities connected with the demonstrations.

This suppression of dissent in Beijing and other major cities in June echoed the suppression of peaceful demonstrations in Tibet, where a series of demonstrations between October 1987 and March 1989 were put down with increasing severity by Chinese security forces, resulting in the deaths of scores of persons. Participants in subsequent, smaller demonstrations were also imprisoned or otherwise punished for non-violent political dissent, and martial law was imposed on Tibet's capital from March 1989 until May 1, 1990.

Steps have been taken in recent months that have resulted in some improvement. China lifted martial law in Beijing and Lhasa, announced the release of hundreds of prisoners who had been held for political activities, and stated its willingness to receive officially sponsored U.S. scholars and Peace Corps volunteers. The United States hopes that these steps will be followed by others that will demonstrate China's return to the path of reform.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 275, has authorized and requested the President to issue this proclamation in support of freedom and human rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim May 13, 1990, as a National Day in Support of Freedom and Human Rights. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day in the spirit of commemorating those who died; drawing inspiration from the courage of those who held fast to their ideals in the face of violent suppression; and urging the Chinese Government to respond positively to the fundamental aspirations for freedom expressed in last year's demonstrations. These are the same fundamental aspirations so profoundly expressed by people around the world during the momentous events we are still witnessing—events that are daily advancing the cause of freedom and human rights.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of May, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fourteenth.

GEORGE BUSH